

Children's vision first in importance

Optometrists warn that a child may have good distance-vision when reading an eye chart, yet be unable to focus near-work clearly, or coordinate the two eyes for various distances.

Reversal of letters in a word, omissions, or substitutions of small words or parts of words, skipping or repeating lines; and poor comprehension, are signs of the eye's inability to move smoothly and accurately across a line of print. Difficulty with math concept, untidy work books, inconsistencies in spelling and inaccurate copy-

ing are often due to early and continued visual malfunction, say optometrists.

Vision in this case has failed to give a child an accurate experience of space, direction, proportion, and time. Poor concentration and short attention span may be signs that a child cannot maintain eye aim and focus. In the presence of any or all of these signs, distance vision may be sharp or normal.

If a child demonstrates any of the above, optometrists warn he will need a complete vision assessment. Any child who is consistently in the lower third of

the class, who is in a remedial program, but not progressing as expected, or who is showing a drop in performance especially in grades above the primary level, may benefit from a visual assessment.

Optometrists may even suggest a health assessment since general health affects vision.

For these reasons optometrists have long advocated discarding the distance letter chart as a screening or assessment device which, by itself, is completely inadequate.

Ontario optometry has recently published a

prolonged periods without stress? • Does the child have a vision problem which could contribute to learning or reading difficulty? • Does the child have a vision problem which could contribute to learning or reading difficulty?

When parents take a child for a visual assessment, optometrists say they should ask the following questions:

- Does the child see clearly at near and far distances?
- Can he shift eye aim easily?
- Can he change focus easily?
- Do his eyes work together properly, and at all distances?
- Can he do all this for

Optometrists are aware of the importance of vision function, and not only diagnose such deficiencies, but also offer help for the problems.

Treatments may be in the form of special glasses, vision therapy, or a combination of both.

Children usually show improved scholastic performance as soon as treatment is established, say optometrists.

Schreiber Scribbles

by WIN CAMPBELL

Mary Sparkes has returned from visiting friends in Hamilton and Smithville. Mary also visited her daughter and son-in-law in Sudbury, Ont.

Gary and Muriel Shewfelt from Echo Bay spent Mother's Day with Marg and Dave Nesbitt, friends and families.

Mr. Walter Illijow has returned from Toronto where he visited his brother Joe.

Mrs. Betty Miller from Thunder Bay made a surprise visit to Mom Winnie for Mother's Day. She was accompanied by Darlene Miller.

The Women's Institute met in the Town Hall for their regular meeting on the 10th of May, with Mrs. Dora Weaver presiding. The Ode and Mary Stewart Collect were recited. The Thought of the Day

was given by Beetha. The Motto was given by Eirene Harness. Roll Call was answered by Memories of Our Mother. Current Events were many. Mrs. Eirene Harness read the Minutes of the last meeting and all correspondence. A Thank You from the Birchwood Terrace residents for the apples sent at Easter was received. Mavis Slater and Winnie read Mom's Day poems. Mrs. Patsy Campbell played the guitar and sang, with all joining in.

This being the Schreiber Women's Institute's 56th anniversary, friends were invited and twenty-five sat down to a delicious supper and especially made cake. A Minute's Silence was held for all past members. \$10 was given to the Cancer Fund. The Penny Auction which was to be

held in May was cancelled until June 10.

Mrs. Wilson won the prize. A birthday card and get well card were sent to Vi Nesbitt. The guests all thanked the Women's Institute for inviting them.

Pukaskwa Park official opening

Federal Environment Minister John Roberts today announced that Pukaskwa, Ontario's newest and largest national park, will officially open July 9. The opening ceremony will be in Hattie Cove near Marathon, Ontario.

The Park's management plan, developed by Parks Canada after extensive environmental research and public consultation, was also released. The plan emphasizes the wilderness character of the park and recognizes the need to protect this natural environment while at the same time providing a range of wilderness experiences.

Pukaskwa National Park covers 1878 km. of extremely rugged terrain. Its boundaries enclose wild rivers, beaches, remnants of logging camps, and the quiet peace of the forest. White water canoeing, wilderness camping and hiking trails challenge visitors. Campers can choose from 67 sites in a

semi-serviced campground at Hattie Cove. Showers, toilets, drinking water, firewood and a trailer dumping station will be provided.

A small day-use area for swimming and picnicking is located near the visitor reception centre where displays introduce visitors to the park and its splendours.

"Pukaskwa's wilderness experience is unique," said Mr. Roberts. "The Lake Superior shoreline, the boreal forest and the outstanding beauty of the Canadian Shield are all elements of this spectacular park. This wild terrain serves as a reminder to us all of the power of the land from which our country has been carved. I look forward to this opening with great pride and anticipation."

The entrance to Pukaskwa National park is a 15-minute drive from the Trans-Canada Highway, mid-way between Thunder Bay and Sault Ste. Marie.

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the Bay

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